

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

May 25, 2011

The Honorable Hilda L. Solis
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Solis:

As you know, the House will soon consider legislation (HR 1745) to end direct Federal funding of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) and Extended Benefit (EB) programs. The majority's summary of this bill says "Each State could continue paying exactly the same benefits as today...and have all the money they need to do so. In fact, absent action by a State legislature, that is exactly what will happen."

We are requesting your assessment of whether that declaration is consistent with the Department of Labor's understanding of what will occur under the legislation. More specifically, please inform us on the following issues –

1. Is every State certain to receive "all the money they need" under the bill to pay for all of the unemployment benefits provided under current law?
2. Is it true that "absent action by a State legislature" a State will necessarily provide "the same benefits as today?"

Thank you for your assistance in clarifying these important matters.

Sincerely,



Sander M. Levin
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means



Lloyd Doggett
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Human Resources
Committee on Ways and Means